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Making it viable: enabling Open Access for Finnish Scholarly Journals

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Small publishers with modest resources

Most of the Finnish journals are published by small learned societies operating on a very modest budget. Most of the journals have not had funds to invest on proper digital publishing platforms. Because of their fragile economic situation, many of the journals have been cautious in moving to Gold OA or even allowing the self-archiving of their articles.

Current sources of income

The main sources of income for the journals are usually subscriptions, society funding collected from membership fees and government subsidy which is meant to cover deficits and can cover only a certain percentage of the budget. Finnish academic libraries spend relatively little money on the acquisition of these journals. There is currently not enough money available to sustain the journals if they would decide to flip their business models from subscriptions to OA.

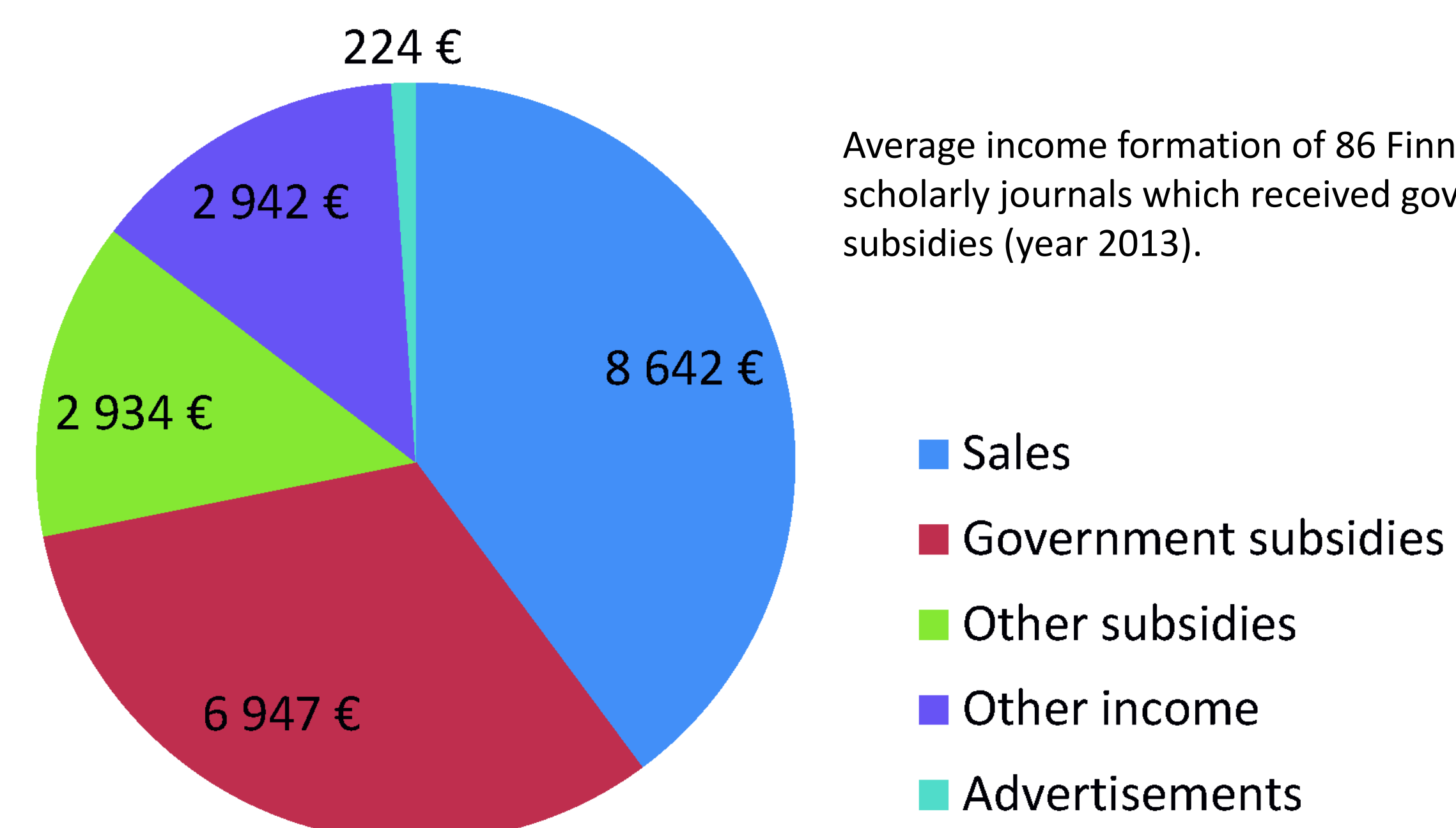
Finnish journals and Open Access

A substantial part of the Finnish research output comes out in about 150 domestic journals, many of which are published in Finnish or Swedish. Nearly 9 % of all peer-reviewed journal articles produced in the Finnish universities are issued in these journals. In some fields within the humanities and social sciences the share of Finnish publications exceeds 50 %.

The articles of about one third of Finnish journals are currently openly available, either immediately or after an embargo period. Another third is available to most of the Finnish researchers as part of two subscription-based services (Elektra and Edilex), and the final third is not available in digital form.

| | |
|---|-------------|
| Articles in OA journals | 870 |
| - without embargo | 681 |
| - with embargo | 189 |
| Articles in Elektra and Edilex journals | 686 |
| Articles in other Finnish journals | 928 |
| Articles in all Finnish journals | 2484 |
| The share of articles in OA journals | 35,0 % |
| - without embargo | 27,4 % |
| - with embargo | 7,6 % |

The number of peer-reviewed articles published in Finnish journals in 2011-2012 by researchers affiliated with Finnish universities. Source: www.juuli.fi.



Average income formation of 86 Finnish scholarly journals which received government subsidies (year 2013).

Making it viable - enabling Open Access for Finnish scholarly journals

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A new project will work on these issues

The Ministry of Education and Culture has funded a 20-month joint project by the Federation of Finnish Learned Societies and the National Library of Finland.

Improved technological infrastructure

The project will develop an improved version of the OJS-based hosted platform the Federation of Learned Societies is providing for the journals of its member organizations. The aims of this development work include the adoption of DOIs and ORCIDs in these journals and improvements in the flow of publication metadata to national and international information systems.

A new funding model for the journals

The adoption of APCs is not seen as a desirable model for domestic journals. Therefore, the project will look for a consortium-based model in which the extra funding needed would come from the research organizations and funders. The universities are highly dependent on the availability of quality publication channels for their research output. The creation of centralized OA funds may also provide opportunities for re-channeling some of the money.

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Finnish Journal of eHealth and eWelfare
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Finnish Yearbook of Population Research
is a peer reviewed, open access journal published by the Population Research Institute of the Finnish Demographic Society and The Institute of Migration. The Yearbook, published since 1946, deals with Finland, Scandinavia, the Baltic countries, and other parts of Europe. Updated population data on the journal.
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Temenos

Temenos, Nordic Journal of Comparative Religion is published by the Finnish Society for the Study of Religion. The journal was founded in 1965 as a joint publication with the learned societies of Comparative Religion in Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden to promote the research and communication of ideas between scholars. Temenos publishes scholarly articles, academic discussions, conference reports and book reviews within the field of the study of religion and culture.

Temenos is an open access journal and all articles are published online. We are currently in the process of digitizing back issues, and past articles will be published in the archives section of this website as the project progresses. Please note that article abstracts are available only from 2005 and forward.

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